TL 1714

East Timor Conference
D588 Loeb
Carleton University
Ottawa, Canada K1S 5B6

October 9, 1990

Dear Friends of East Timor

With the present tensions in the Middle East we are once again reminded of the power of oil in today's world. This reminder surfaced again recently, albeit in a more subtle form, with regards to the situation in East Timor.

Not long ago Australia and Indonesia signed the Timor Gap agreement in order to begin the exploitation of the East Timor Sea's offshore oil potential, a potential that some companies feel is extremely significant. However, as most of us already know these waters are not Indonesia's to parcel off and the Timor gap agreement is in direct and flagrant violation of international law.

Under Article 73 of the U.N. Charter, this agreement violates the rights of non-self governing territories with respect to their economic advancement. It is also in violation of General Assembly Resolution 3485 regarding East Timor's right to self-government and the respect for territorial sovereignty.

According to the information contained in an article from Euroil, a Norwegian-based trade magazine for the offshore oil industry, the riches of the Timor Sea are about to be stolen from the Timorese people for the benefit of others.

With the recent economic decline in Australia and the continuing economic problems in Indonesia, the governments of these two countries are eager to sweep away the legal and moral implications of the development of an offshore oil industry in the Timor sea. This ignores U.N. and European Parliament resolutions regarding decolonization and the attainment of self-determination by the East Timorese(U.N. General Assembly Resolutions 35/27, 36/50).

Such actions cannot go unnoticed, nor unanswered. Thus, the call goes out!

We've dug up the addresses of those involved and encourage everyone to write to them as soon as possible. There is still time to get some answers on the position of the companies involved and perhaps demand a temporary halt in drilling until the matter can be addressed at the U.N. We've included some of the more important facts that could be considered in your letters but they hardly constitute all of the potential issues, so get the thinking-caps on, the pens out, and demand that those involved answer some important questions!

Sincerely,

Ottawa's friends of East Timor

enc.

GOVERNMENTS

Canadian External Affairs:
U.N. Affairs: C. Svoboda, Director U.N. Affairs Division
Indonesia Desk: J. Scott, Director Asian-Pacific South Relations
address: Lester B. Pearson Building
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2

Possible points:

1) What is Canada's position regarding the obvious violation of U.N. resolutions and international law.
2) Will Canada raise the issue at the U.N.? If not, Why?
3) How can Canada justify its defence of Kuwait and not even raise the issue of East Timor.

Australian Government:
address: Matthew Neuhaus, Department of Foreign Affairs,
Canberra, A.C.T. 2600
Australia tel.(062) 619111

Possible points: 1) As above, re. Australia.
2) The legality and morality of the Timor Gap agreement.

Australian Petroleum Exploration Association(APEA):
address: Keith Orchison, Executive Director
60 Pitt
Syndey, N.S.W. 2000 tel.(061) 279651
Australia FAX (061) 272826
Note: APEA is a government corporation actively encouraging exploration in the Timor Sea, treat it as a government agency.

Private Companies

Possible points:

1) What is the company's position regarding the legal issues?
2) Would they be willing to seek an arrangement so that the East Timorese could benefit directly from their oil?
3) Are they aware that under international law monies gained in illegal activities and disputed territory must be forfeited?

Santos Ltd: Public Relations Dept.
address: 39 Grenfell
Adelaide, S.A. 5000
Australia

Esso Australia Ltd. Public Relations Dept.
address: 127 Kent
Syndey, N.S.W. 2000
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